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HARWOOD PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
HIGHLAND AND EUCLID AVENUES
HARWOOD PARK, MARYLAND 21227

History as of December 1990

Harwood Park United Methodist Church is the out-growth of the old Hanover M. E. Church (see appendix A) on Hanover Road, in Hanover, Md., east of the B&O RR. tracks, it was formed In 1919 by a nucleus of people who broke away from a small independent, privately owned church. The owner would not agree to become affiliated with the Methodist Church, as many members wanted.

A large plot was given by Mr. William Dagler, not a member; during construction, services were held in a tent on the property. The building was a chapel from Fort Meade, which was torn down and moved to Hanover. Many nails were pulled, and some new material was needed. Most of the work was done by the members, some times in the evening by the light of lanterns. The project was financed through a loan from the City Missionary Society plus pledges, gifts and personal loans by the members.

Although the first minister to serve the Hanover Church was a Methodist, Reverend Louis Horpel, most of the members were of various denominations, and the congregation thrived. Among the families composing the congregation at that time were, Anderson, Borcherding, Crouse, Dudrow, Fairbanks, Florey, Johnson, Hood, Howe, Kirby, Kirk, Munnings, Parrott, Reimsnyder, Robinson, Smith, Walden, etc. The deseendants of many of those families are still active members in the Church.

Pastors following Reverend Horpel, who was killed by an automobile while still pastor of the church, were Pastors Dix, Hanford, Ruehl and Gisriel, when in 1934 the Hanover M. E. Church was joined with Melville Methodist Church in Elkridge, the Reverend Edward Gisriel was assigned to serve as pastor of both churches.

In the late 1930's, still during Reverend Gisriel's pastorate, time had necessitated repairs and more heating equipment to the over-sized "barn-like" building, which was also poorly located. Reverend Gisriel suggested that since most of the members were from Harwood Park, it would be of advantage to relocate the church in Harwood Park, thus the birth of the Harwood Methodist Church.

In November 1940, ground was broken for the new building on the corner of Highland and Euclid Avenues in Harwood Park. Again digging of the foundation and most of the construction was done by the members of the congregation, including Reverend Gisriel.

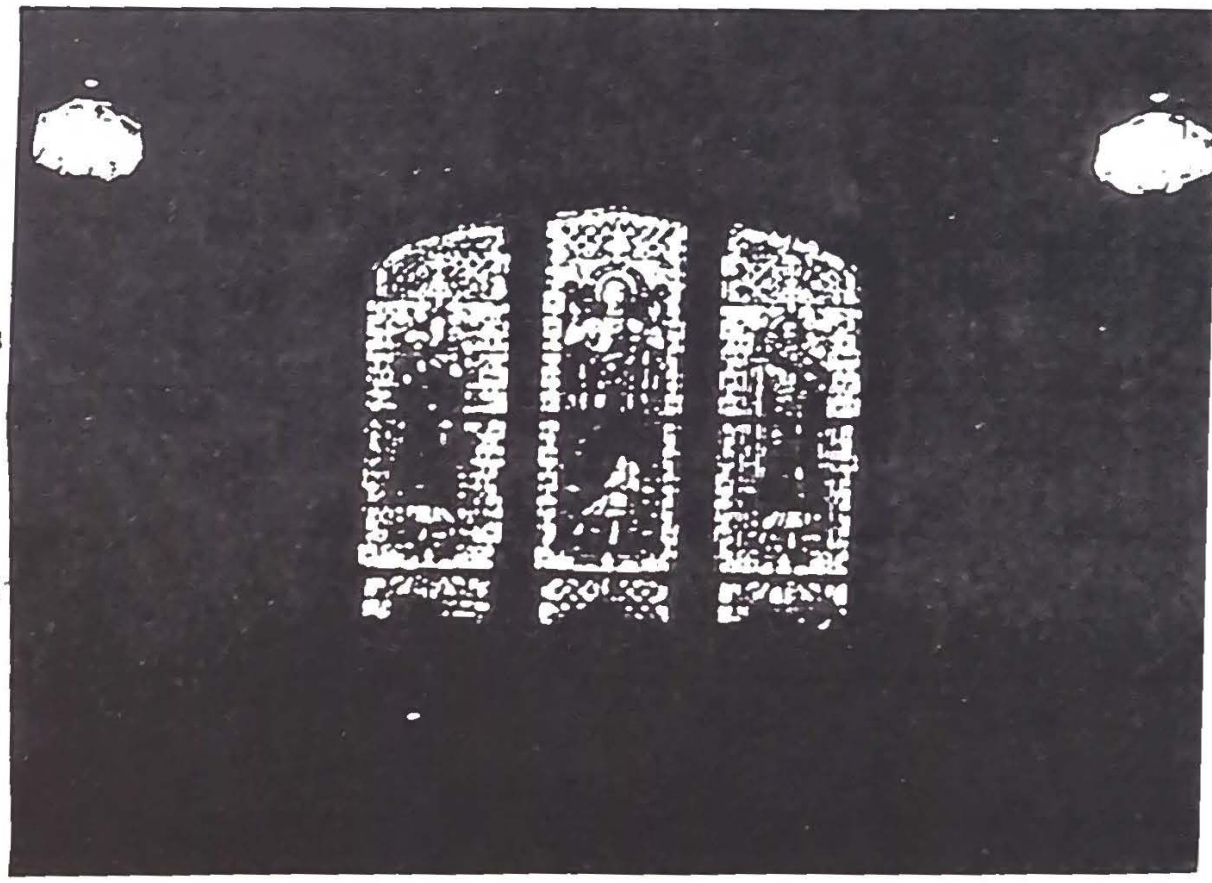
The property was purchased with funds from the Young People's Club of the church, the original loan was transferred to the new building, and again pledges and gifts were sought. As the old building was sold and torn down, services were held in the Munnings' home, in the Harwood Improvement Association Hall, and later in the basement of the church until the sanctuary was completed.

Dedication of our new Church was the week of September 14, 1941. (see appendix B) Services every night of the week (Exc, Mon & Sat.)

The furniture from the old church was stored in Mr. Dagler's barn until 1941 when it was moved to the new building for use, including the benches, altar rail, tower bell, pulpit (now used as reader's pulpit), three high back chairs, communion table and a large 1846 Illuminated Bible. All the above are still in use, except the Bible, and the benches which were replaced by pews October 1943.

In 1942 Reverend Charles E. Subock replaced Reverend Gisriel and he was with us until 1948, also serving Melville Chapel. In 1946 the old "pump organ" needed to be replaced. Prompted by an ambitious choir and a music loving pastor, Reverend Subock, a Hammond electric organ was purchased, and dedicated on January 5, 1947, with a concert by Mr. John Eltermann, a well known organist.

The first major addition to the building began in 1952, when the small kitchen became inadequate. Under the leadership of Reverend Jacob H. Snyder a large kitchen was added to the rear of the lower floor to better serve suppers, socials and fellowship gatherings. also inside plumbing and rest rooms were installed. After this construction Reverend James W. Merchant was assigned to serve Melville Chapel and Harwood Park church.



Further beautification of the sanctuary was in 1954 when one of our oldest families donated and had installed a large three-section stained-glass window, Many thanks to the Yost family. the window was dedicated on October 24, 1954 (see appendix C).

The next year four lots adjoining the church property were purchased, for the purpose of parking and expansion.

After being a sister church with Melville Chapel for twenty-two years, a decision was made for Harwood to be on a charge with Wesley Chapel in Jessup. The pastor for this charge was Reverend Eugene Funk, who joined these congregations in 1956.

In 1956 the Methodist Youth Fellowship had built a brick bulletin board, with inside lighting. The "Cross and the Flame" was added in 1988, with a plaque in the vestibule, reading "United Methodist Women present the "Cross and the Flame" to all the men of the Harwood United Methodist Church in appreciation for their many contributions to the church. 1/10/88".

Women's Society of Christian Service made a delightful addition to our organ by having installed electric chimes in 1958.

When H. Ira Conley arrived as our pastor in 1960 most of the plain glass windows had been replaced by stained-glass, which added greatly to our sanctuary beauty and worship inspiration. Each window was donated by members, with a name plate on each, showing names, Baker, Borcherding, Carter, Goldhammer, Lloyd, Parrott, Smith, Yost, Sunday School, and Womens Society of Christian Service.

An ever-growing population in the community necessitated the need for more Sunday School space to accommodate a record attendance of 135. In April 1961, after countless hours of planning and inspiration on the part of Reverend Conley, and the committee, ground was broken for the new educational addition to our building, consisting of five class-rooms, two modernized rest rooms, and a revised two furnace heating system. In October of the same year these additions were dedicated and put to use, (see appendix D).

In 1963 many memorials were given, our first true altar and matching pulpit, vases, and communion service were given in memory of Russell Carter. A baptismal bowl was given in memory of Henry Linder, Sr. Also the cross and candle holdersfor the altar were given by the Methodist Youth Fellowship, (see appendix E).

Also in 1963 Harwood church was no longer on a charge with another church. We were assigned a supply minister, Charles Sraver, who performed all services, and was with us for six years. During his pastorate we had other memorials given, new ceiling lights in the sanctuary, an altar cloth and the stainless steel cross on top of the bell tower, all given in memory of Mr. Earl Baker. Also two seven-candle floor candelabra given in memory of Mrs, Edna Hughes, our faithful organist for many years. Most of the above was dedicated in a dedication service March 3, 1963.

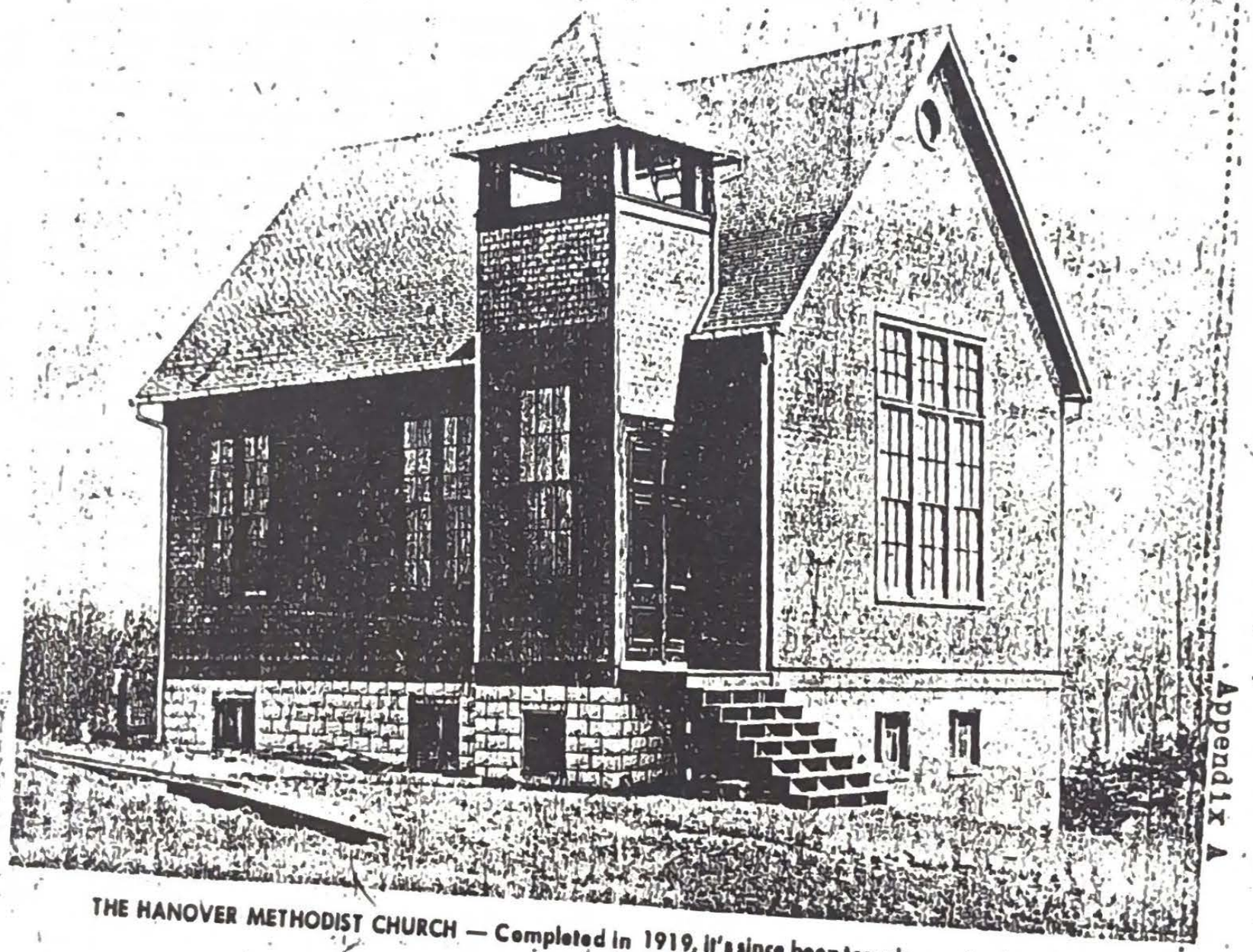
In 1987 our basement was water-proofed, which is very satisfactory. Also the whole outside was covered, the windows covered with aluminum casing, and the shingles covered with vinyl siding.

Since Charles Snaver's pastorate, we have had the Reverends John Walther, Henry Schwartzman, Dale Vroman, Randall Pratt, James Davis, Russell McClatchey, and now Roy Taylor since June 1990.

Our building and grounds are in fine condition and well maintained. Our worship service is at 9:00 every Sunday morning, and our Church School at 10:15. All are invited and all are welcome.

Margaret D. Borcherding
Church Historian

Appendix A



THE HANOVER METHODIST CHURCH — Completed in 1919, it's since been torn down after being sold.

Appendix A

Appendix A

Methodist church on a post card

History began when church-goers were locked out

By MARJORIE E. SHIPLEY

Many of this column's readers keep requesting more news on the old buildings and homes of the Harman-Hanover area. I am happy to continue supplying this type of item as it is a favorite of mine also. Sometimes getting the right information is very hard so the items may not appear as often as I would like.

Last year, Norris Hunter, donated many old pictures to this writer before moving out of state. Among them was one of the old Methodist Church on Hanover Road, but he couldn't give as much information on the building.

By chance, I showed the picture to a friend, Mrs. Gerry Falls, who informed me," its the old church of the one she now attends," and she put me in touch with Mr. Elmer Borcherding, who supplied all the information for this article.

Hanover Methodist Church

"About 1917-18 those attending the Anderson Chapel in Hanover wanted to be affiliated with the Methodist Church, but the owner of the Chapel, Mrs. Almira Sweeten, did not want the affiliation, because she wanted to have sole control of everything that went on, even the preaching. The membership insisted on the change. She closed the building to us, even to removing the outside steps to the second floor sanctuary. The membership insisted on having a meeting, and on several occasions we entered the sanctuary by climbing up on a farm wagon. With her insistance on locking the building, we decided to go elsewhere."

Borcherding continues, "A plot of property was obtained from William Dagler, on Hanover and Race Roads (northwest corner). An abandoned Chapel building was obtained at Fort Meade, which had to be torn down, moved and rebuilt as our church. During the preparation and building of the church, we had a large tent, also obtained at Meade, in which to hold our services, and to have suppers to raise money."

"Much new material had to be purchased," continues Borcherding, "Women and children pulled the many nails from the old lumber. The ladies also had food for the workers to prevent delays. The building was completed in 1919. During and after construction, services were held by the Rev. Louis Horpel of the Methodist Church."

Founding Families

Many men, women and children helped in the building of the church. The names of families, recalled by Borcherding were Anderson, Borcherding, Crouse, Digney, Dudrow, Erbach, Florey, Hopkins, Howe, Johnson, Kirby, Kirk, Munnings, Parrott, Reimsnyder, Walden, etc.

"The church prospered and progressed very well for many years. About 1930, all the altar furniture, the brass cross and urns were stolen, and never recovered. Furniture replacement was obtained by the generosity of another church," according to Borcherding., and continues on." After many years the attendance from the Hanover area dimished, most of the members were from the Harwood area.

Church Is Sold

In 1938-39, it was decided to sell the old Hanover Methodist Church and build in Harwood. Property was obtained at Highland and Euclid Avenues and the present United Methodist Church was built under the leadership of the Rev. Edward Gisriel, and opened in 1940.

The Hanover Methodist Church was sold to Abbey "Fisher" Osminsky, who tore the church building down and built a house there, now occupied by a family named Gowl.

Finishing up the story, Borcherding goes on," In the 1920's, transportation was not what it is today, very few automobiles or even horses and wagons were available, so most of our traveling was done on foot along the railroad tracks.

"Many times, for our church suppers, we carried food in tubs; and on each side a handle. It was a little over a mile from Harwood to the Hanover Church. In the late 1920s and 1930s more automobiles were available, and a road was built between Harwood and Hanover, so travel became better."

BUILDING COMMITTEE

EDW. MUNNINGS — ELMER BORCHERDINE

ALBERT PARROTT — WM. C. LAYMAN

HENRY LINDER — REV. EDW. C. GISRIEL

We extend a most cordial invitation to all of God's people in this community to enter into the fellowship of this Church and together work for the strengthening of God's Kingdom. If you so desire to unite with us sign your name below and our Pastor will be glad to call upon you.

Name .....

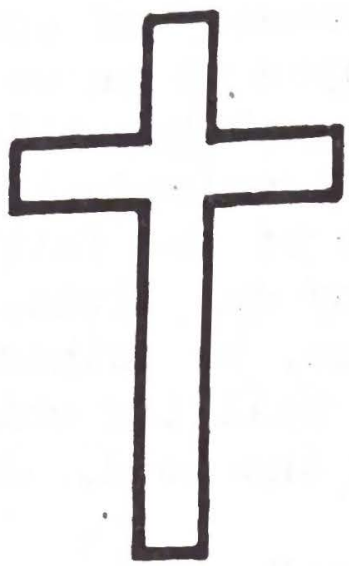
Address .....

WEEK OF JUBILEE

CELEBRATING THE BUILDING OF THE

HARWOOD METHODIST CHURCH

Harwood Park, Md. **Washington Boulevard**



September 14-21, 1941

REV. ADNA W. LEONARD, D.D., Bishop

REV. R. Y. NICHOLSON, D.D., District Superintendent

REV. EDW. C. GISRIEL, B.D., Pastor

ELKRIDGE, MD.

The New Church

These doors are open to welcome old, young, rich and poor, wise and unwise, saint and sinner. We meet to worship God, to instruct the children, to strengthen faith and love, to learn the art of Christian living and service. This Church is a Beacon Light in this community which is a guide to both saint and sinner.

Appendix B

Dedicatory Prayer:

Minister: Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name: worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

People: We see Jesus, because of the suffer- of death, crowned with glory and honor.

Minister: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, without whom no words or works of ours have meaning, but who dost accept the gifts of our hands as tokens of our devotion; grant thy blessing upon us as we dedicate this gift to thy glory. May this memorial which we now dedicate be an enduring witness before all thy people of the faithful service of thy servants. May our lives, being consecrated unto thy service, be joined with thy faithful ones into that building which groweth unto a holy temple in the Lord. AMEN.

The Recessional Hymn No. 381

The Benediction

The Organ Postlude

-0-

The Memorial Window is the gift of the following, who are the children of JACOB AND MINNIE YOST:

Mrs. Amelia Bauman, Mrs. Marie Howe, Mrs. Earntine Lang, Mrs. Margaret Parrott, Mr. Paul F. Yost, and the children of the late Mrs. Annie Jacobson.

All attending the service are invited to remain to visit a while after the Service. Cake and coffee will be served in the basement of the church.

H O M E C O M I N G

and

S E R V I C E O F D E D I C A T I O N

of the

Y o r k M e m o r i a l W i n d o w

Harwood Methodist Church, Harwood Park, Maryland

October 24, 1954

three o'clock in the afternoon

* *

Organ Recital — Wilbur Bauman

The Processional Hymn — No. 67

The Call to Worship: (Congregation standing)

Minister: Serve the Lord with gladness,
People: Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise.
Minister: O come, let us worship and bow down: Let us kneel before the Lord our maker.
People: For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. AMEN.

A Prayer of General Thanksgiving:
(in unison, Congregation seated and bowed)

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we thine unworthy servants do give thee most humble and

Appendix C

HISTORICAL RECORD

The Hanover M.E. Church located on Hanover Road in Hanover, Md., south of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad was formed in 1920 by a nucleus of people who broke away from a smaller, independent congregation also located in Hanover and which was privately owned. The ground was purchased from Mr. Wm. Dagler, and during the construction of the building, services were held in a tent on the property.

This project was financed through a loan from the City Missionary Society plus pledges and personal loans accumulated by the members. Most of the work was done by the members of the congregation - often in the evenings by the ligh of lanterns.

Although the first minister serving this church, Reverend Louis Horpell, was a Methodist, most of the members represented various denominations. Among the families composing the membership of this church were the Parrotts, Yosts, Borcherdings, Andersons, Reimsniders, Munnings, Dudrows, Kirks, Hughes, Smiths,

Historical Record. Record matters of unchanging data about the church, such as: the dates of erection, repairs; gifts and memorials, such as an organ, pulpit; any outstanding service rendered to or by the church; special meetings, conv tions; and other notable events.

No. 194 The Methodist Publishin

Hoods, Robinsons, Kirbys, Shrivers, Howes, Fairbanks and Waldons. The descendents of many of these families are still active members in the present Harwood Methodi Church.

Pastors following Reverend Horpell, who was killed by an auto while still with the church, included the Reverends Hanford, Dix and Gisriel. In 1934 the Hanover M.E. Church joined the Melville Methodist Church charge in Elkridge and Rev. Edward C. Gisriel was assigned to serve as pastor of both churches.

In the late 1930's, still during Rev. Gisriel's service, time had necessitated repairs to an already oversized, barn-like building which was also poorly located. Rev. Gisriel suggested that since the majority of the remaining members were residents of Harwood Park, it would be of more advantage to re-locate in Harwoor Park and erect a new and smaller building. - Thus the birth of the Harwood Methodist Church.

In November of 1940, ground was broken for the new building on the corner

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No. 194 The Methodist Publishing House

of Highland and Euclid Aves. in Harwood Park. Again, the planning of the loca
tion and most of the construction was done by members of the congregation.

The ground was purchased with the funds of the Young Peoples' Club of t
church, the original loan was transferred to the new location and again plans
were sought. As the old structure had already been sold, services were held i
the hall of the Hanover-Harwood Improvement Association, and later in the new
basement until the sanctuary was completed.

Most of the old furniture was moved to the new site. As the years have
vanced, much of this has been replaced by new, but the original alter-rail and
bell still remain in use.

In 1942, Rev. Charles E. Subock replaced Rev. Gabriel and remained until
1948, still on the charge with Melville.

By 1946, the old "pump organ" neededto be replaced. Prompted by an am-
bitious choir, and a music-loving pastor, a Hammond electric organ was purchas

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and dedicated on January 5, 1947.

The first major addition to the structure of the new church began to take form in 1952 under the guidance of Rev. Jacob H. Synder. The very small kitchen was enlarged to better facilitate the handling of suppers, and inside plumbing was installed.

Rev. James William Merchant came to serve Harwood and Melville in 1952.

Further beautification of the sanctuary was begun in 1954 by the installation of a large, illuminated stained-glass window - a memorial gift from one of our oldest families.

The next year saw the purchase of four more lots adjoining the property. This enabled space for expanding and parking.

After having been a sister to Melville congregation for twenty-two years, the decision was made for Harwood to transfer to a charge along with Wesley Chapel in Jessup, Md. The new pastor being Rev. Eugene Funk who joined these

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No. 194 The Methodist Publishing House

congregations in 1956.

Chimes were added to the organ in 1958 and by the time Rev. H. Ira Conl arrived to serve us in 1960, most of the remaining windows had been replaced with stained-glass - all gifts of various members.

An ever-growing population in the community necessitated the need for m Sunday School space. In April, 1961, after countless hours of planning and inspiration on the part of our pastor, Rev. Conley, ground was broken for the ne educational building. This addition consists of five class-rooms, and two modernized rest rooms plus a revised heating system. In October of the same year, the new rooms were put into use.

As a gift in memory of a departed member, the church was presented with its first true altar in 1963 along with accessories of pulpit, vases, cross, etc. For many years a table had been used for this purpose.

The Harwood Methodist Church was, in 1963, no longer connected with an-

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other church on a charge. We had as our pastor, Rev. Charles Sraver, who was a supply minister. In 1964, Melville Chapel and Harwood Park Churches wereformed 1 the Elkridge-Harwood Charge, Rev. John H. Walther, minister.

1920	Rev. Louis Horpell	
	Hanford	
	Dix Ruehl	
1934	Edward C. Gisriel	Elkridge
1942	Charles E. Subock	"
1948	Jacob H. Snyder	"
1952	James William Merchant	"
1956	Eugene Funk	Jessup
1960	H. Ira Conley	"
1963	Charles Sraver	Harwood (alone)
1964 - 66.	John H. Walther	Elkridge-Harwood Charge
66 71	Charles Scrover	
71- 3/73	Henry Schwarzman	April 1966.
3/73 6/73	Dale Croman	
6/73 6/80	Randall Pratt	
80 - 82	James Davis	
82 - 84	Russell McClatchey	Harwood - Melville
84 -	Russell McClatchey	Harwood alone

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